

A Sequel to "SUCCESSFUL EMIGRATION."

THE  
CANADIAN NORTH-WEST  
AND  
THE ADVANTAGES IT OFFERS  
FOR  
EMIGRATION PURPOSES,

BY

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GEORGE KENNING,  
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1885.



PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

**MANITOBA**

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with the Author's Compliments.*

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*Dec 1/85.*

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# THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST

AND

THE ADVANTAGES IT OFFERS

FOR

## EMIGRATION PURPOSES.

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UNDER this title we include the Province of Manitoba, and the North-West Territories. The more complete political organisation of Manitoba, and her more advanced settlement, distinguish her from the general group of rising Provinces in the Canadian North-West. As a first step, it is very desirable to realize something of the magnitude of the country we are about to notice. The Province of Manitoba is rather larger than Great Britain with Ireland added, and to the west of Manitoba four other Provinces have been formed, each being somewhere about the same size. After these lands have thus been cut out of the North-West Territories, we have a tract of country remaining rather larger than the total area of Russia in Europe with the German Empire added. Hence it will be seen that under the title of the Canadian North-West we are dealing with an enormous tract of country, and a very important portion of the Dominion of Canada. Lord Dufferin, in speaking of this district, said: "From its geographical position, and its peculiar characteristics, Manitoba may be regarded as the keystone of that mighty arch of sister Provinces which spans the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is here that Canada, emerging from her woods and forests, first gazed upon her rolling prairies, and unexplored North-West, and learnt that her historical territories of the Canadas, though themselves more extensive than half-a-dozen

European kingdoms, were but the antechambers to that till then undreamt of Dominion, whose illimitable dimensions alike confound the arithmetic of the surveyor, and the verification of the explorer. It was hence that, counting her past achievements as but the prelude to her future exertions and expanding destinies, she took a new departure, and felt herself no longer a mere settler along the banks of a single river, but the peer of any power on the earth." Four years then elapsed, and at the same point of the Canadian North-West, his successor in the office of Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne, in an address which he delivered in Winnipeg, in 1881, most warmly supported these views. He said: "Unknown a few years ago, we now see Winnipeg rapidly lifting itself to the front rank amongst the commercial centres of the Continent. We may look in vain elsewhere for a situation so favourable and so commanding—many as are the fair regions of which we can boast. There may be some among you before whose eyes the whole wonderful panorama of our Provinces has passed—the ocean garden island of Prince Edward, the magnificent valleys of St. Johns and Sussex, the marvellous country, the home of "Evangeline," where Blomidon looks down on the tides of Fundy, and over tracts of red soil, richer than the weald of Kent. You may have seen the fortified Paradise of Quebec; and Montreal, whose prosperity and beauty are worthy of her great St. Lawrence, and you may have admired the well-wrought and splendid Province of Ontario, and rejoiced at the growth of her capital Toronto, and yet nowhere can you find a situation whose natural advantages promise so great a future as that which seems ensured to Manitoba, and to Winnipeg, the Heart City of our Dominion. The measureless meadows which commence here, stretch without interruption of their good soil westward to your boundary. The Province is a green sea over which the summer winds pass in waves of rich grasses and flowers, and on this vast extent it is only as yet here and there that a yellow patch shows some gigantic wheat field. There was not one person who had manfully faced the first difficulties—always far less than those to be encountered in the older provinces—but said that he was getting on well, and he was glad he had come, and he generally added that he believed his bit of the country must be the best, and that he only wished his friends could have the same good fortune, for his expectations were more than realized."

Another period of four years passes by, and in the interval we find the Canadian Pacific Railway completed from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In October, 1885, the Governor-General of Canada

(His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne), received a right loyal welcome in Winnipeg on his return from a tour extending through the Canadian North-west to British Columbia, and in his address on that occasion he said:—"It is impossible to travel from this city to the Western Ocean without feelings of admiration for the courage, both of those who first conceived, and of those who have carried to a successful consummation, this great national work. The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway stands alone in history of great achievements in railway building. The physical difficulties which had to be overcome, the shortness of the time in which the work was carried out, the small numerical strength of the nation for whom the work has been done, are without parallel in the history of similar undertakings. \* \* \* \* There was another thought which forced itself upon my mind during my travels. All this country over which we have been passing, its natural resources, and physical beauties belong to the Dominion of Canada. \* \* \* It is impossible to look upon this Continent, now sparsely inhabited by a few millions of human beings, without reflecting how small are the interests of the present, compared with those of the future which lies before us. Let us keep our vision fixed upon that future, and let us remember how vast is the load of responsibility involved by the ownership of this great country. If I could venture to give you advice I should say, let the Dominion Government at Ottawa, the Provincial Government in each province, the municipal authorities in your cities, let every citizen in his own place, let them bear in mind that they are trustees for those who will come after them, for the millions who will one day replace the thousands now upon the soil, that when they are gone their successors may say of them, that in the early days of the history of their country, those who were in the position to mould its young destinies, used with wisdom and foresight the tremendous opportunities which Providence placed within their reach." These remarks which have fallen from the lips of three successive Governors General constitute a great and glorious tribute to the unequalled conditions of prosperity existing in the Canadian North-West, and they give clear indications as to the great developments which await it in the early future.

#### THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

This Province—the eldest sister of the North-West group—may be fairly considered as having been released from the parental care of the Dominion Government, and as having surrounded herself

with a thoroughly complete establishment of her own. Whether we direct our attention to the work done in her Parliament, or to the administration of her laws, or to the development of her internal wealth, she stands unsurpassed for their excellence. Amidst so much that is well organised, it is still necessary for me to make special reference to the work done under

#### THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Their work would be highly commendable in any Country, if only for the fact that their Annual Reports are of the highest excellence, and their Crop and Live Stock Bulletins are of immense practical value. The care taken in obtaining accurate information is worthy of all praise, and it is a matter for warm congratulation that the example which Manitoba has set, is very likely to be followed throughout the Dominion of Canada. The work of the Department as now organised goes far beyond this, for it embraces the oversight of all matters relating to agriculture—such as the establishment and assistance of Local Boards of Agriculture, and Local Agricultural Societies—the management of the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition—the establishment of schools for agriculture and for instruction in veterinary science—the enforcement of the laws relating to the diseases of animals, coupled with providing professional assistance in cases of exceptional difficulty—the enforcement of the laws having reference to noxious weeds—the management of experiments on crops, live stock, fruit, forestry, etc., etc. I have noticed the work of this Department somewhat in detail, because I think that it should be more generally known, that those farmers who settle within this Province have a guardian care over them, and a strong and willing hand ready to help them in any difficulty. The Government of Manitoba recognises this great truth—that the prosperity of every individual settler is a matter of public importance, because of its influence upon the general welfare of the Province. Men are not left here to become martyrs to circumstances which are beyond their control, neither are they permitted to feel that they are uncared for, whether they succeed or fail. There is a jealous protection extended towards them, because every successful farmer is a producer of wealth, and being such it is considered to be both economical and desirable to encourage all his efforts. I must not, however, be supposed to suggest that any Government care can convert our "ne'er-do-weels" into prosperous men of business, but, notwithstanding this, immense help can be

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given—and is given—to those men who understand their work, and who have the capital to enter into their business under conditions which are consistent with success.

#### THE CHARACTER OF THE SOIL.

The character of the soil of any country necessarily exerts a commanding influence upon the commercial success of those who cultivate it, and the natural fertility of the soil consequently becomes a matter of very great importance. This is a truth which is more perfectly known in England and Scotland than in any country in the world, for here the greatest efforts and the heaviest expenditure have been made, in keeping up the fertility of our soils by the aid of artificial manures. The soil of Manitoba differs very greatly in different parts, for we must not forget that we are speaking of a tract of country larger than Great Britain and Ireland. No one need be surprised at the fact that we find in Manitoba, soils which are good, bad, and indifferent, and yet experience justifies the Indian title it bears as the "The Land of the Great Spirit or God's country," for this is the literal translation of the word "Manitoba." One man may truthfully describe the soil of his neighbourhood as being most fertile in its character, whilst another man may with equal truth describe some land he has discovered as being of little agricultural value. No one knowing the country can honestly deny these facts, but it does not matter to us as men of business whether or not it is possible to find poor soils in Manitoba. The practical question we have to deal with is this:—Can we find plenty of very good land throughout the Province? I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that land of very high fertility may be most easily obtained there by any man who knows his business, and who can tell the difference between good and inferior soils. I am bound even to go beyond this, and state that although we have hitherto considered the Black Earth of Central Russia (Tchornoi Zem) the richest soil in the world, that land has now to yield its distinguished position to the rich, deep, black soils of Manitoba and the North-West Territory. Here it is that "The Champion Soils of the World" are to be found, and we may rejoice that they are located within the British Empire. Take as an illustration of their powers of fertility the simple fact that on the Kildonan Farm near Winnipeg, belonging to Mr. Robert McBeth, on which land I saw their 50th crop of wheat growing in 1884—crops which had followed each other year after year, and had maintained their full yield from first to last—



KILDONAN FARM  
With its 50th Crop of Wheat.

without the soil losing any portion of its productive power. Year by year had the winter frost renovated that soil with fresh stores of fertility from its rich reserves, and thus the land became better prepared than ever for its work. It may appear to a stranger to this country a bold statement for one to make, but with a full knowledge of the responsibility which attaches to it, I do not hesitate to say that there are millions of acres in the Canadian North-West, not only fully equal to the Kildonan soil in fertility, but that these lands are still remaining as uncared-for wastes only requiring the plough to prepare them for the reception of the seed. If we descend in the scale of fertility and take those soils which are fully equal to the ~~best~~ best soils known in Great Britain and Ireland, even when they possessed their most luxuriant powers, soils of this character and quality exist in still larger quantities. Manitoba possesses her full share of such lands, but these rich soils overspread her boundaries, and are well distributed throughout her sister provinces, and thence they extend onwards and onwards through much of the outer territories. The opportunities therefore which exist for capital and labour being profitably employed in the production of food, sufficient for millions of British subjects, and for supplying them with happy homes surrounded by every comfort, these opportunities, I say, are simply boundless.

*"There a man is a man if he's willing to toil,  
And the humblest may gather the fruit of the soil.  
There children are blessings, and he who hath most,  
Has aid for his fortune, and riches to boast.  
There the young may exult, and the aged may rest,  
Away, far away, in The Land of the West."*

#### AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES.

These results will take us beyond the enquiry as to the quality of the soil, and will bring us into contact with the surrounding circumstances which enable us to make use of a good soil in a more or less successful manner. Here we have to deal with two very clearly defined seasons—the summer or the period of growth, and the winter, or the period of rest. At the present stage, our enquiry will be limited to the former of these, for this demands our consideration by reason of its special influence upon our crops and live stock. Every farmer knows that if he is to obtain an abundant crop he must not only secure a fertile soil, but be favoured by a good season and a suitable climate. Happily for the Canadian

North-West good seasons are the rule, and bad seasons are extremely exceptional. The conditions of climate are definite and settled, for the frost and snow having left the surface, the land is soon ready for tillage, the seed is sown, and the rapidity and luxuriance of growth is simply incredible to those who are accustomed only to the growth of crops under the British climate. This variation will be easily understood if we remember the clear, bright sunshine, and the steady stimulating warmth which distinguish the climate of the Canadian North-West. The rapidity of growth we observe may be traced to the fact that there is an abundance of plant food in the soil, and that the stimulating influence of warmth and sunshine impart to the plant a great energy of growth, whereby that food is rapidly made use of. In these cases such rapidity of growth is free from the objections which too often accompany it in Great Britain, for the simple reason that the plant-food in the soil in Manitoba and in her sister provinces is not only abundant in quantity, but it is also perfect in its composition. If these facts are remembered they will go far to show to any intelligent individual, that in the Canadian North-West we are dealing with conditions which to the British farmer are most unusual, if not practically unknown. To illustrate this most important set of conditions, let us suppose that a manufacturer has a very good machine, which, being abundantly supplied with all the materials which are needed, the use of steam power enables a rapid production to be secured without any sacrifice of quality. All of these three conditions, however, are necessary for success, for a weak point in either would soon make itself evident. So also in the growth of crops in that district, the clear, bright sunshine, and the warmth, act as the motive power. The perfect character of the sun-light makes growth exceptionally rapid, and as the supplies of food in the soil are also complete, the excellence of the crop is practically regulated by the ability of the seed for the discharge of its duties. If this vegetable machine be not thoroughly effective, the abundance of motive power, and an unlimited supply of raw materials, are not sufficient for securing a success. In no part of the world have well trained farm seeds equal opportunities for giving their best results. We shall subsequently refer more fully to the important influences exerted by the seed; but when these are equal to their duties, the trio is again complete, and very magnificent results are within command. Bearing all these facts in mind, I trust that the reader will not be disposed to condemn an accurate statement of facts as being too highly coloured, or as exaggerations. In any case my duty is clear, and the risk must be run, for I cannot follow

the example of a settler in the North-West, who, having explained to me how surprised and delighted he was with the happy circumstances surrounding his new home, I naturally expressed to him the hope that he had written home and told his friends all about it; but he gave us this significant reply:—"Why, Sir, if I only told them one-half they would never believe me again." I have gone out of my way, therefore, to preface some of the details of my Report by showing that the conditions of the district are perfectly exceptional, and for this reason no one should feel surprised if the results obtained are exceptional also.

#### MANITOBA WHEAT.

This is a most valuable wheat for milling. It recommends itself from a miller's or baker's point of view in all points, a type of the perfect. More desirable wheat than samples of Hard Fyfe Canadian for the British Miller could not be found. It is simply magnificent. There can be no better quality of wheat used for mixing purposes, both for strength and quality of flour produced—superior even to No. 1 Minnesota wheat. It would prove invaluable to millers in this country where home-grown wheats frequently come to hand in damp condition in consequence of the humidity of the climate. It possesses splendid quality and value for mixing with English wheats; but can we get a regular supply of it? I am afraid the American millers are too 'cute to allow this quality to come here in any quantity, if they can possibly prevent it. If such wheat can be put on our markets at a reasonable price it must meet a ready demand at 3 or 4 shillings per quarter over the best Indian Red wheats. No doubt it would do for mixing in some districts, but I would most certainly grind it alone, and it would make flour of the finest quality. Could we get such quality regularly, we should have no fear of any American competition in the point of quality of flour. It is just what we want, and what we cannot buy. The value and quality of Manitoba wheat lies in the fact that it is grown on almost virgin soil. Makers of best flour are, or should be, anxious as far as they can to get their supplies of wheat that they depend on for strength, from those parts of the North-West of America where wheat is a new crop to the land. No. 1 Duluth is not in any way fit to compare with the best Manitoba wheat, especially not in its working qualities. It is certainly as beautiful wheat as ever I saw, and particularly well adapted for millers in this country. Surely some agency can be devised for getting more easy access to these hard wheats which are never seen in commerce in purity. If the English miller could

only get a good supply of such wheat at a moderate price, fine Hungarian flour would stand little chance in this country.

I may now state that although I most fully agree with this very high commendation of Manitoba Wheat, I have in this statement literally quoted the published opinions of 14 of our largest firms of millers in this country, and I have simply grouped these opinions together—such opinions coming from men of extended experience, and they too buyers who cannot even be suspected of giving any over-commendation—these opinions are of far more value than anything which can be said by those who are not in the trade. If those statements mean anything they prove that the wheat of the Canadian North-West has a special value upon the British markets, and that larger importations are eagerly desired. The fact of Manitoba Wheat being thus sought after by millers cannot fail to encourage its production, and this demand will help to maintain its market value. The increased production of wheat will be materially assisted as the means of transport to the British markets are improved, and as the costs are decreased. It is, however, most important that the farmers of the Canadian North-West should have increased facilities for selling direct in the British markets, because it will give them a free choice between the local buyers and an export of their wheat, thereby securing a fair competition. I am glad to be officially informed that such arrangements are daily becoming more within general command.

The increase in the number of Flour Mills in Manitoba is very marked, for whilst the cost of grinding profitably economises the cost of export, much valuable food is also taken back to the farm, and given to stock, which would otherwise have been sent away in the unground wheat. Each year also shows increasing accommodation alongside the railways in the form of Elevators for storing wheat. At the end of 1884 these gave accommodation in Manitoba alone for one and half million bushels. And in addition to this there was storage at Port Arthur, for another half a million. As these elevators give a cheap and good storage for wheat whilst it is being held over for sale, the convenience to the farmers is very great. Closely associated with the value of the Manitoba wheat is the question of its cost in production. I see no reason to modify the cost I have already given for each acre under wheat, as a first crop after breaking the prairie, viz.:—£2 (or say 10 dollars). As regards the costs for the cultivation of subsequent crops, as there will be tillages on the summer fallow to provide for, it is fair to calculate upon somewhat similar expenditure. The cost per bushel will of course vary with the yield of the crop, but it is no

uncommon thing to find forty bushels produced at just the same cost by a good farmer, as twenty bushels are obtained by one who is "too late" in all his operations. I am not disposed to quote a very low cost for production, but it may be safely calculated as averaging about 20 pence per bushel, and in ordinary seasons it will leave a margin of profit ranging from £2 an acre downwards, according to the character of the management and various local conditions. The expenses incurred in the delivery of wheat to the railway station vary considerably, as will be evident if it be considered that some has to be drawn three miles and other wheat will require perhaps thirty miles carriage. This represents so much additional cost per bushel, and so much less profit to the grower, which he would do well to take into his calculations in selecting his land.

During the last three years (1883-4-5) the growth of wheat has been interfered with by summer frosts. I am perfectly satisfied that any injury which has arisen, has been most improperly magnified by two classes—namely—those who have opposing interests, and those who want to lower the market price of wheat. These reports are also remarkable for the fact that generally speaking whilst they refer to any damage done in the Canadian North-West in very exaggerated terms, they are remarkably silent about other districts in the States which may have suffered far more severely. Having visited the Canadian North-West during each of these three harvests, I have had very fair opportunities for learning the opinions of farmers in various parts of the district, and for personally inspecting the crops. Putting aside all exaggeration we must face the fact that much damage has undoubtedly arisen, and it is in the highest degree important for us to determine how far we can lessen, or prevent these losses. I have not the least doubt on my mind, but that the danger may be very greatly decreased by a better system of management, and I base that opinion upon facts which have come under my observation in this district. It may however be desirable to state at this point, that if the growth of the wheat crop has been unduly delayed by any cause, and frost (not necessarily severe frost) strikes the ear when it is in a milky state, considerable damage arises, but the liability to injury decreases just as the grain becomes firmer and more solid. The testimony of many of the oldest residents, and notably that of the Hudson's Bay officers, tends directly to show that these frosts are perfectly exceptional. This is satisfactory so far as it goes, but it is still very desirable to enquire fully into the facts of the case. Personally, I am satisfied that by such an enquiry we shall scatter our fears, and correct those errors on the part of many growers of

wheat, which have so largely contributed to any loss which has arisen. In fact it very largely rests with each farmer to determine whether he will make himself safe, or run the risk of a loss. A more perfect cultivation of the wheat crop may be regarded as the first and best protection against frost, or any other injury. By this I mean that the soil should be brought into a thoroughly friable condition—that a healthy, hardy, and quick growing seed of good and suitable quality should be sown—that early sowing and thicker sowing should be the rule—that the lands chosen for wheat should be free from the watery vapour arising from lakes and ponds—and that reasonable protection from strong winds should be provided. Each and all of these conditions are obviously desirable as a means for securing the most successful cultivation of wheat, and they constitute a chain of which it may be said, the weakest link indicates its strength. Whether there are frosts or not, these are the requirements for success. If they are adopted the farmer may be assured that he has done his part, and so far as he is personally concerned we shall hear no more of injury from frost. But when a farmer has been content to sow his seed wheat upon a roughly ploughed turf which is as tough as a rope, or when he has even ploughed that turf over a second time, and left the soil beneath too hard for the roots of the wheat plant to enter, can it be any cause of wonder if that wheat crop makes a slow growth, and that it remains green and full of sap when it ought to have been cut, and ready for going into the stack. If, again, some farmers will continue sowing the seed wheat which year after year they have thus brought into a slower and still slower habit of growth, can it cause surprise that the crop does not ripen early. Nature has done very much for the Canadian North-West, there are soils there unequalled in the world, there are sunshine and warmth capable of aiding those soils to produce wheat of a most desirable character, but these advantages must be prudently used if we would secure the desired result. The fact that the soil and climate of the district so powerfully favour a rapid and perfect growth, makes it the more necessary that we should give the wheat plant every chance for utilising these powers. Far better would it be for many farmers to cultivate one half of their land more thoroughly, and we should then hear less of slow growth, and injured wheat.

The selection of a healthy, hardy, and quicker growing seed involves much skill and good management, but they will yield a rich reward. Here is a work, in which I venture to believe the Department of Agriculture will soon take action. The commend-

able energy already shown by that Department is a guarantee that this also will be carried out. The fact is that much of the Red Fyfe wheat needs a prudent change of treatment to give it greater energy of growth, but let the wheat growers of Manitoba think well what they are about before they set that wheat aside. If the land is better prepared for the seed, the Red Fyfe will have a better chance, and an improvement in the seed will soon follow. Early sowing is very generally acknowledged to be necessary, but it is not sufficiently recognised that thicker sowing equally saves time. If the seed wheat is sown moderately thin—say at the rate of from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 bushels per acre—as soon as the young plant has fixed itself firmly in the soil, it commences throwing out a number of additional seed stems, and making a thicker plant. If that thicker plant is provided by a more liberal seeding, it is more than probable that fully two weeks will be saved, and the crop will be ready for harvest that much sooner. I saw an excellent example of this on Mr. James Findley's farm, on the north side of Shoal Lake. He sowed 3 bushels of seed wheat, and he not only reaped a crop of fully 45 bushels of first-rate wheat, but no injury was done to it by the frost, because it was two weeks more forward, than other corn sown at the same time. The Hon. J. C. Aitkens, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, also drew my attention to a case which came under his observation in 1884, in which fully 10 days had been gained by thicker sowing. Neither must we overlook the fact that the extreme fertility of these soils has rather a tendency to encourage a long continued growth of straw, and thus time is needlessly lost. Thicker sowing, however, tends to divert the energies of the plant in the direction for forming its seed more quickly, and it certainly favours an increase in the yield of the wheat crop.

Much that has been said respecting wheat culture applies equally to oats, barley, peas, and other farm crops. The bounties of Nature must not be made a cover for negligent arrangements, and the responsibility for success must in any case rest upon individual management, and not upon the country, for a proper rotation of crops, the use of suitable farm seeds, and a thorough cultivation of the soil, are most desirable even in this fertile district. In these various farm crops there is a steady increase, year by year. Thus, in the Province of Manitoba,

the growth of wheat increases 55 per cent. annually.

“	“	oats	”	50	”	”
“	“	peas	”	46	”	”
“	“	barley	”	34	”	”
“	“	potatoes	”	34	”	”

It will also be interesting to notice the average of the earliest and latest sowings and harvestings, as also the highest and lowest average produce on entire farms, with the average produce generally. The most recent returns of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture enable this to be done with every confidence.

Crop.	Seeding.		Harvest.		Average on One Farm.		Average of all Farms.	
	Began.	Ended.	Began.	Ended.	Highest.	Lowest.		
	Wheat	Apr. 22	May 19	Aug. 28	Sep. 19	Bush.	Bush.	Bush. 23·7
Oats	25	"	23	"	28	70	15	44·
Barley	May 8	"	30	"	19	55	15	30·
Potatoes	"	14	"	31		425	100	234·

In reference to the results given above, showing the farm averages of various kinds of grain, it is desirable that they should be clearly understood. In the cases quoted showing the highest produce it represents that on the farm referred to, the entire growth of wheat averaged 40 bushels per acre, and that on another farm the entire growth of oats averaged 70 bushels per acre, and so on with the other instances named. When we speak of the average of all farms, it must not be forgotten that inexperienced and unsuccessful farmers pull down the average very greatly. A good farmer having an average yield of 40 bushels of wheat, may have two neighbours producing an average of 16 and 15 bushels respectively, and this would reduce their general average to about 23 bushels as in the above table. No one, however, would regard the 23 bushels as indicating the quality of the land, and the capabilities of the soil, the conclusion more generally drawn would be that if all had been well-farmed the average would have been nearer 40 bushels. Attention is drawn to this because many are apt to take the average yield of a district as a fair indication of its capabilities, whereas it would be more correct to take the results which have been obtained under fairly good management.

In all newly settled districts which are favourable for the growth of wheat, oats, and barley, these naturally command the first attention, because their cultivation gives the quickest return for the capital expended. As those settlers accumulate additional capital they naturally supplement this tillage work by stock-keeping. Some who can command sufficient capital, commence with a system of mixed husbandry. Manitoba has been no exception to this general rule, and here we find a remarkable increase

taking place in the live stock of the province, and following rapidly upon the successful growth of grain. We have a large number of very useful Horses and Cattle reared in Manitoba, and some of these are bred from the richest gems which England and Scotland have produced. Pigs are being very extensively introduced, and although there are very few pig breeding establishments on the American system, pigs are still largely produced by many farmers who keep from four to ten sows each. Sheep thrive well in most parts of Manitoba, and the number is steadily increasing, for the soil and climate are very suitable. Difficulty has been experienced in some neighbourhoods where the "Spear-grass" (*Stipa spartea*) is abundant. This is sometimes also known as the oat-grass, and as the wild oat. The seed of this grass is shaped like a spear, and it has the power of working itself through the fleece, and it can penetrate the skin of sheep, causing them much suffering and loss of condition. Breeders find that by keeping their sheep for three or four weeks in the early autumn, upon land which has been mown, or in fields which are free from this grass, they are able to avoid all trouble from it. If by any means the sheep can be protected whilst the ripening seed is being separated from the seed stem, all difficulty is overcome, for the seed soon works its way down into the soil, and there it is safe. This plant yields one of the earliest and sweetest grasses on the prairie, and it is in consequence very highly valued as food. On small farms this grass is easily held under control, and sheep breeders can make use of it with safety. The real difficulty is felt when sheep are kept on ranches, but even here it is being successfully overcome by care and attention.

#### VALUE OF LAND.

The result of successful settlement and a good administration also shows itself in the increasing value of land in Manitoba. The following statement which is dated August, 1885, and which has been issued by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, shows the present market value of land in the several counties of this province. When due consideration is given to the fact that by far the greater portion of this land was free homestead land which has been given to those living upon it, and that such land is now worth from £1 to £2 per acre as a cash price, it gives just about the best testimony obtainable as to the value of such homestead lands. There is one consolation, however, which outsiders may draw from this report, and that is the fact that about one-half of the province has not yet been taken up, and that it remains unoccupied.

COUNTIES.	Average cash price per acre of improved land.	Average cash price per acre of unimproved land.	Percentage of land unoccupied or non-resident.
<b>EASTERN GROUP.</b>			
Carillon	\$ 7.40	\$ 3.75	68.
D'Iberville	12.50	5.50	77.
Lorette	6.80	3.58	61.
Lisgar	11.03	4.09	61.
Manchester	8.09	5.41	61.5
Morris	9.60	6.04	62.6
Selkirk	12.45	6.45	63.2
Average for group	\$ 9.69	\$ 8.43	63.47
<b>CENTRAL GROUP.</b>			
Beautiful Plains	\$ 6.94	3.40	59.
Dufferin	8.55	5.30	52.
Marquette	9.33	5.61	73.2
Norfolk	8.02	5.05	40.5
Portage la Prairie	9.18	6.22	51.
Rock Lake	7.72	4.50	47.4
Westbourne	13. 0	5.58	74.6
Average for group	\$ 8.96	\$ 5.09	56.8
<b>WESTERN GROUP.</b>			
Brandon	\$ 7.28	4.36	35.9
Dennis	8.83	4.35	53.8
Minnedosa	5.28	3.29	56.3
Russell	6.50	3.45	58.
Shoal Lake	6.23	3.39	56.5
Souris River	7.85	4.00	63.
Turtle Mountain	7.16	3.96	52.8
Average for group	\$ 7.02	\$ 3.62	54.2
Average for Province	\$ 8.55	\$ 4.51	58.15

## THE CLIMATE OF MANITOBA.

In speaking of the agricultural capabilities of this district I have made reference, incidentally, to the brilliancy of the summer weather, and its powerful influence upon a luxuriant and healthy growth. A farmer needs no better testimony in favour of a summer climate than is given by the splendid growth of Manitoba spring sown wheat. On this question of the summer climate there is a very general agreement in the opinions which are expressed, and here I can bear my own personal testimony to the fact, that the brightest and most perfectly delicious summer climate is to be found in the Canadian North-West. When we have to speak of

the winter we find some very singular differences. Those who do not live in the district, proclaim their opinions as to what the conditions of discomfort must be, and on the other hand those who do live there, say that their winters admit of very much happiness and enjoyment. For my own part I am more disposed to accept the statements of those who speak from a personal knowledge of the facts, than from the loudly proclaimed opinions of those who really know nothing about it, except the conclusions of their own imaginations. Certain enquiries naturally spring into the mind on observing this conflict of testimony, such as:—What difference can it possibly make to outsiders, so long as the people of the North-West are satisfied? Are there any private advantages to be gained by all this systematic mis-representation of facts? Does a pure-minded benevolence alone induce these persons to pay a regular staff of correspondents to continue throwing discredit upon the North-West? It is unnecessary for me to express any opinion upon this point, especially as I feel that it would be impossible for me to give more exact information upon this subject than is conveyed in the following remonstrance which the Board of Agriculture for the Province of Manitoba has issued. It may be confidently stated, that the members of this Board, are amongst the most honoured agriculturists in that province, and they possess the confidence of those who have the privilege of their acquaintance.

"The attention of the Board of Agriculture for the Province of Manitoba, established under the authority of an Act of the Legislature, was called to the systematic attacks which have lately appeared in some newspapers in England upon Manitoba, and its capabilities as a proper field for emigration from the Old Country. The statements made in those newspapers have asserted that the climate of Manitoba is so severe in winter as to prevent out-door work of any kind, and to be injurious to the health of men and animals; that the summer is so short and with such little warmth that crops cannot properly mature, and that nothing but disaster can follow any attempted settlement of a large portion of the country. Resolved—That this Board protests in the strongest possible terms against statements so utterly devoid of truth, and so opposed to the real facts. That this Board is composed of members appointed for each of the 29 agricultural divisions into which the Province of Manitoba is divided, and that nearly all its members are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and have been so for periods ranging from two to thirty years. That the climate of Manitoba in winter is in every respect healthful, \* \* \* and from the dry character of the air not so severe in its effects as much less.

cold and damper parts of Canada. \* \* \* \* That the experience of the members of this Board, spread over every part of this Province, is in every respect the exact reverse of the false and injurious statements made in the newspapers referred to; that the condition of the settlers who have come into the country during the last few years is one of complete satisfaction with their residence in this country; that they have found the climate by no means such as the newspapers asserted it to be; that they are abundantly satisfied with the results of their agricultural operations; and that they rejoice at the great improvements which many of them are securing in their material prosperity. That as regards cattle, the climate affords no grounds whatever for the statements which are contained in the newspapers referred to. That this Board has reason to believe that the statements made in these newspapers are instigated, not by a desire to afford information about the country, but by certain existing railway interests in Old Canada and the United States, in the hope that they may prejudice the carrying out of the railway system now being constructed throughout the North-Western portion of Canada, which is affording the means of communication throughout the country, and which is essential to the continuance of the prosperity which has already been so great, and so unprecedented."

Here we may with great advantage quote the words of the Marquis of Lorne, respecting the Canadian climate; he says—"The climate has honest heat in summer, and honest cold in winter. The sun is seldom hidden, and men see many seasons, and are healthy, strong, and active. The air is drier than in Europe. Sometimes the thermometer indicates 90° Fah. in August, and 30° below Zero in January. These extremes of temperature are only seen through a few days of the year, but they are not unpleasant. During most of the months the weather is delightful. In a word, the climate is bracing and excellent. The saying of the old Scotchwoman is literally true. She wrote home to her people to say:—'It was fine to see the bairns play in the snow without getting their feet wet.' It is only near the sea that the bairns can make snowballs, until the spring thaws come to help them. Throughout the winter the snow is dry and powdery. The Canadian seasons are very certain. It is sure to be steadily cold in winter, and steadily warm in summer, and throughout the twelve months a bright sun gives cheerfulness to the scene." These are beyond doubt strong and important statements, but they have been made by men who are above suspicion, and the testimony of numerous experts is perfectly consistent therewith. How

is it then that such well-known facts are denied by a group of correspondents, the great majority being anonymous writers. Various circumstances tend to encourage the efforts thus made, all of which—from a Canadian point of view—are more or less unpatriotic, but it must be acknowledged that the attempts are generally made with very great skill. When men are interested in the sale of land in other districts than the Canadian North-West, it is easy to see that they have certain inducements to throw discredit upon any part of the country which may happen to be a more popular favourite. It is, however, by no means uncommon to see men of this class—when they have sold their property—make their way as quickly as possible to the country they had done their best to discredit. The fraud in such cases becomes transparent. So also the natural rivalry of the United States in their efforts to attract emigrants to their shores, too often manifests itself by a skilful manipulation of facts, which is characterized by "smartness" on the part of their agents, rather than by accurate representation. I have given very careful attention to many of these communications to the British Press, and I have been driven to the conclusion that those who throw discredit upon the Canadian North-West desire thereby either to cover their own errors and failures, or to assist the sale of property in other parts, or in some way or other seek to advance their own private interests. It is very well known that paid agents ~~are largely employed to carry out a well-organised system for throwing discredit upon the Canadian North-West, and they certainly perform their duties with a zeal worthy of a better cause.~~

No one would for a moment dispute the fact, that the winter is long, steadily cold, and often severely cold, but the practical consideration is whether with prudent care, good food, and proper clothing, the winter can be rendered very enjoyable. Can anything exceed the enjoyment of the visitors to the Carnival at Montreal, with all the glories of their Ice Palace? The present generation in England has little direct knowledge of what is embodied in a thoroughly cold winter. Let them read the accounts given of the winter of 1814, and they will find the reports show that the Thames, the Severn, and other English rivers, then carried as bright and merry parties, as the St. Lawrence and Red River now carry in their brilliant winter season. The main promenade on the Thames—the City Road, extending from Blackfriars to London Bridge—had its refreshment stands on which the sheep roasted on the ice were served up, whilst merry parties, who seated themselves around the social fires on the ice, were joking over the latest



editions issued from the printing presses also stationed on the ice. Or if we see the reports of the districts through which our Severn runs, there we find them roasting bullocks on the ice amidst no end of merry making. At the present time the minds of many Englishmen appear to be pre-occupied with the miseries of a misty white frost, when the thermometer is but little below the freezing point, forgetting the fact that when the temperature falls 30° or 40° below the freezing point, every one rejoices in the healthy freshness of the air. When I hear the amusing comments which are made upon the low readings of the thermometer, by those who have never felt a low temperature in a dry atmosphere, I am always reminded of the North-West settler who said to me, "Why Sir, if they would only smash up them 'ere thermometers, no one would know but that the summers were very pleasant, and the winters most enjoyable." It may now be a convenient time to give a brief outline of some of the incidents of

#### A VISIT TO MANITOBA.

A group of individuals are gathered upon the Landing Stage in Liverpool, and the number is rapidly increasing as cab after cab delivers up its contribution of individuals and baggage. The steam tender comes alongside and the passengers go on board, it being understood that they have now simply to take care of themselves, as their baggage is under the care of the agents of the ship. Considering the enormous quantity of baggage which has to be taken on board, it appears almost incredible that it can be accomplished in the short time which still remains. Good arrangements soon show their influence, and as the passengers have now passed on to the upper deck and are only spectators, the vast accumulations rapidly diminish, and the tender slips her ropes as the clock of St. Nicholas strikes the appointed hour. With equal promptitude all are in a few minutes transferred to the Ocean steamer which is floating in the Mersey near by, and we see that her steam is well up, and she pants to be free for her run. Shortly the ship bells ring, and we soon find that the voyage has really commenced. Gently she glides with the ebbing tide, and the busy commerce of the port is soon left behind. Meanwhile the steamer glides along her course, and shortly the baggage is disposed of, and a visit to your state-room satisfies your mind that your own luggage has been properly arranged there for your use. It will now be satisfactory and interesting to visit the Saloon to see the place assigned to each, and to learn the names of your new neigh-

bours for the voyage. Curiosity being gratified and a walk taken on the deck the first summons to the dining table will not be long waited for, and here we either make new friends, or renew old associations, but in any case we usually lay the foundation for several days pleasant association. The following day we call at Moville for the Canadian Mails, and then we are off for our five days run from Ireland to Canada. Having now left the Atlantic, onwards we rush through the lovely scenes which bound the St. Lawrence waters, and after passing thousands of pretty homes and many a bright village on the river side, we finally cast anchor beneath the citadel of Quebec, in the midst of surroundings possessed of an unsurpassed beauty. Few however can leave the ocean steamer entirely regardless of those who have done so much to make the voyage bright, happy, and prosperous. After the several voyages I have had on board the Allan Line of Mail Steamers, it would ill become me to fail to notice the courteous attention and the excellent arrangements which I have so frequently enjoyed, and I therefore now desire to express my entire satisfaction with their general arrangements for the safety and comfort of their passengers.

Little time need be lost in Quebec—unless it is specially desired to visit the eccentric old city and its interesting neighbourhood—for railway trains are ready to convey passengers to Montreal. Beyond Montreal we have the choice of two routes—the one by the Canadian Pacific Railway which runs on to the north of Lake Superior, and passes onwards through Port Arthur to Winnipeg—and the second route is by taking the railway to Toronto, and passing thence to some one of the ports from which steamers run to Port Arthur, at which place we also join the railway to Winnipeg. Both of these routes to the Canadian North-West have great inducements to offer. Some will prefer proceeding at once by railway, taking advantage either of the first or the second-class sleeping cars and the new dining cars of the Canadian Pacific Railroad which now runs direct from Quebec to Winnipeg. The scenery along much of this line is said to be very fine, and where time and expense become the first considerations this route will probably be preferred. In other cases, the opportunity for visiting some of the lovely scenery of Upper Canada—including Niagara—as well as the facilities thus offered for visiting the charming cities of Montréal, Toronto, and Hamilton, these will induce many to select the Lake route to Port Arthur, running as it does through some of the finest Lake scenery in the world. For the summer tourist both routes will have great attractions, and each can be

easily taken either on the outward or homeward run. Of those who are going to settle in the Canadian North-West—and who have no young children with them—a visit to Upper Canada and the Lake route will be an exceedingly enjoyable deviation from the direct run by railway. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company are running some of the finest sleeping and dining cars on the American Continent, and their lake steamers are most comfortable and desirable boats, replete with excellent accommodation. These steamers run from Owen's Sound, and they are unquestionably the finest vessels on the Lakes.

By either of these two routes then we can reach Port Arthur, and thence we proceed to Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba—so well described by the Marquis of Lorne as "The Heart City of the Dominion," situated as it is about mid-way between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Here then in Winnipeg we have passed over the threshold of the Canadian North-West, and although the line of approach to it possesses little or no agricultural value, yet this city stands at the entrance to the most extensive range of fertile soil which we have in the British Empire, or in fact elsewhere. The city of Winnipeg has a great future before her, and her powers for commerce are being developed with marvellous rapidity. Youthful she certainly is, but she is more complete in the comforts and conveniences she offers as a place of residence, than many of our old English cities. She has certainly all the advantages arising from having adopted many of the most recent improvements associated with town life. For instance no where in England is the telephone so completely used for superseding the necessity for messengers. It matters little what may be the requirements in the home, the office, the factory, or the shop, for each and every need this helper gives immediate assistance. Amidst the members of families and their friends, domestic and social arrangements are organised without anyone leaving their houses, and in this way time and labour are economised to an extent which is unknown in the Old Country. Amidst so much which is worthy of commendation in this young city, it is almost invidious to make a single selection—but only one other matter can be referred to—and I select their fire engine system. Touch the alarm—communicating with any fire engine station, by day or night—or telephone for the alarm to be given—and within ten seconds the horses are harnessed, and in their engines, and the firemen are on their seats ready for a gallop to the point indicated on the alarm dial. We shall in time adopt similar arrangements in England no doubt, but these applications of electricity have been in use there for some

few years past. But why are these facts mentioned here—chiefly to correct the many erroneous ideas which are so commonly entertained in England, that Canadians have habits of life rather more consistent with those of the proverbial backwood's men, than with the usual comforts of English life. No greater mistake can possibly be made, for the homes of very many of our Canadian families, are replete with conveniences of which we have in England only a limited knowledge, and they yield to none, in the thorough happiness and elegant comforts which they enjoy in their homes. We must not however tarry longer in Winnipeg, for we propose to extend our trip to

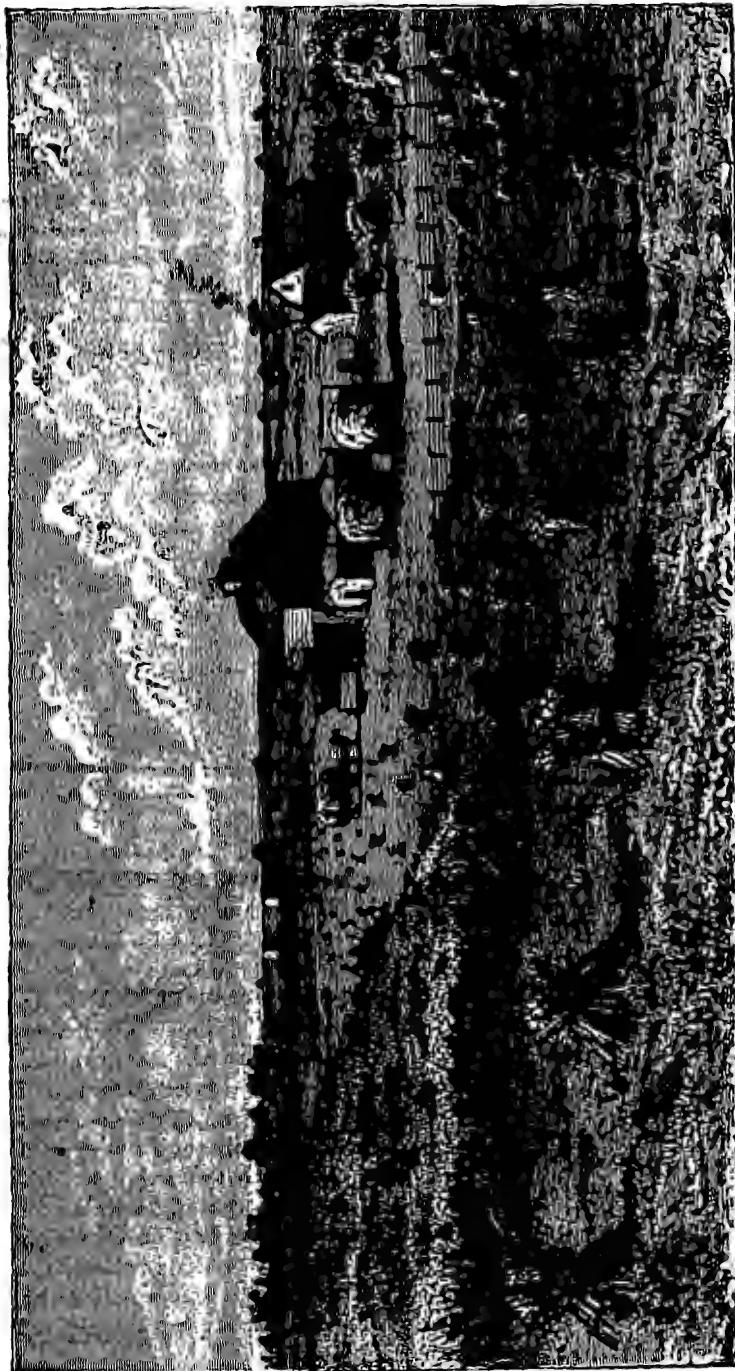
#### THE CORN LANDS OF THE GOLDEN SOUTH.

In leaving Winnipeg we take the South-Western or Pembina Branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and we soon enter the district which formed a portion of the Half-Breed compensation lands. It would have been well for these people if they had never possessed power of sale, but they had the rights of free men, and they exercised those rights by selling their property at very low rates, and they used the money as they thought proper. We saw some very fine stock between the Morris and Red River, for the land around is remarkably fertile, and the Short Horns, Devons, and Ayrshires grazing there gave evidences of its good qualities. At Morris which is about 40 miles south of Winnipeg they have a capital market and good railway accommodation. Here also we enter the prosperous colony of the Mennonites. Two years after they entered on their Reserve, Lord Dufferin addressed to them the following remarks, and they apply to their present condition with perfect accuracy:—“It is with the greatest pleasure I have passed through your villages, and witnessed your comfortable homesteads, barns, and byres, which have arisen like magic upon this fertile plain, for they prove indisputably that you are expert in agriculture, and already possess a high standard of domestic comfort. In the name of Canada and her people—in the name of Queen Victoria and her Empire—I again stretch out to you the hand of brotherhood and good fellowship; for you are as welcome to our affections, as you are to our lands, our liberties, and freedom. \* \* \* In one word beneath the flag, the folds of which now wave above us, you will find protection, peace, civil and religious liberty, constitutional freedom, and equal laws.” There are far more valuable lessons to be learnt from the success of these Mennonites than are commonly acknowledged. Their industrious habits, their village communities, their close association whereby they can render

mutual help, their facilities for schools, Sunday services, medical care, and stores for trading, these conditions of their settlement, stand out as so many land-marks, which practical men in the Canadian North-West know how to value aright.

But we must now rush onwards by rail as far as Manitou, a distance of about 75 miles, passing through a vast tract of excellent country, the homesteads being well filled by successful settlers. The recent completion of the railway for another 70 miles westward, and across the Pembina River, is of immense value to the district. We had to drive from what was known as Manitoba City Junction, leaving there about five in the evening. For about two hours we had a bright and glorious drive through excellent land, but we were then compelled to dash forward over the grassy plain for about 20 miles, shrouded by the darkness of night, trusting implicitly to the skill of the driver, and the intelligence of his horses. That night we passed in Crystal City, and much pleased we were with "The Brunswick". The name of Thomas Greenway will long be associated with Crystal City, as he induced so many settlers to locate themselves about here, and in the Pembina Mountain country. With all the drawbacks encountered by these early pioneers, these people are to-day amongst the most successful settlers in the country. With the early morning we recommenced our journey westward, and now we enjoyed the advantages of seeing the lovely country through which we passed. This district stretches away to a newer and equally promising settlement in the Turtle Mountain District, which is about 120 miles in length and 40 miles broad. It is very picturesque, and abounds in well-wooded slopes, and is well watered by pretty lakes and running streams. The settlers are chiefly Canadians from Western Ontario, who with large families sought a wider field for their sons and daughters, where land could be obtained cheaply, and worked more extensively, with less labour and moderate capital. That they have succeeded beyond their expectations, is attested by the appearance of the country everywhere, and by their own testimony.

Dufferin and Rock Lake Counties have their full share of rich lands. Along the course of the Pembina River there is much useful timber, and this is much sought by herds of deer, which are properly welcomed and duly looked after by the settlers in the neighbourhood. A magnificent stretch of fertile prairie lies south of the Souris River, which is being rapidly settled right up to the base of the Turtle Mountain. Proceeding onwards in a north-westerly direction we pass through a beautifully undulating country which is rapidly settling up. At Plum Creek there is an exceedingly



A FARM SCENE IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA.

prosperous settlement, and a strong group of good families who know full well how to enjoy their success. Between this place and Brandon we passed through some more good land which was yielding large crops, but rather damaged by the frost. As the railway centre of a great and prosperous corn district, Brandon must be regarded as a wonderful example of rapid growth, and of commercial success. Taking a general survey of this rich corn district we may fairly acknowledge that the title of "The Golden South" is thoroughly well deserved. With the recent increase of railway accommodation, settlement will become more compact, and improved cultivation will rapidly follow the increase of capital arising from the steady accumulation of wealth which is going on throughout this important district.

It is now desirable for me to take the reader along the Canadian Pacific Railway about 80 miles to the west of Brandon, and having placed him on the line which divides Manitoba from the North-West Territories, I propose to return from that boundary along the railway to Winnipeg. The first station on the line which we shall pass on our return, is Elkhorn, from which the Assiniboine farm is distant about 12 miles. The colonisation settlement which is being carried out near here, will be subsequently referred to in detail, but on the land which is being farmed by Mr. Rankin, M.P., and Mr. Herbert Power, there are some splendid cattle being raised. Special reference is made to these, because we have in them one of best examples of the advantages arising from the use of thoroughly well bred sires with the best milkers of the district. There is a large herd of about 250, from which there need be no difficulty in selecting 200 beauties—excellent in the quality of their meat, and possessing that hardy character which is so valuable an adjunct to high feeding power. None of these cattle are kept in houses in the winter, but they run under open shedding when the weather happens to be rough, nothing being done to protect them from the general low temperature of the air. The herd has maintained very perfect health, and gives a distinct disproof to the statements of those who would lead us to believe, that the low temperature of Manitoba is inconsistent with the health of cattle. In driving from this farm to Virden, we pass for twenty miles through a very well settled district, but along this line of country the frost has this season done much damage to the wheat and oats. As we again approached the railway at Virden, we came upon two farms which will not fail to attract much notice in the future. The "Boss Hill Farm" is a prominent object of interest for travellers passing by the railway. It consists of 1,280 acres, and is the property of

Messrs. Bouverie and Routledge. They entered upon this land in 1884, and before winter they had about 600 acres broken and back-set, and this was sown with wheat in 1885, from which a satisfactory crop was secured, but not entirely free from injury by frost. Another block of about 600 acres has been broken and back-set in 1885, and next season the greater part of 1200 acres will be under wheat. The growth of timothy, sheep's fescue, and clovers was tried on a well-cultivated piece of new land, and with extraordinary success, for not only was a heavy cut of grass taken, but a strong and close covering of grass remained, which will be watched during the coming season with great interest. On this farm there is a herd of about 60 cattle, which are chiefly pure-bred Short Horns, these also did perfectly well through the winter with open shedding for them to run under. Adjoining this land is Mr. William Stephens' farm, upon which the best set of farm buildings in the district has been erected, as well as an excellent residence. There is a business-like appearance about the whole affair which gives an indication of good management, and future success. In leaving Virden by railway we pass through much good prairie land before reaching Austen, and there are some good farms to be seen, but beyond Austen we run through a rather level tract of land containing some of the richest pasturage and corn soils in Manitoba. The country is occasionally broken by some lakes and streams, and on other portions of this tract of land we observe some very successful growths of wheat and oats. The high quality of this land is maintained right up to the city of Winnipeg, to which we have again returned.

On reaching Winnipeg on the evening of September 18th last, somewhat wearied with my lengthened prairie journey, I found an invitation awaiting me to join the members of the Provincial Government, in accompanying the Governor-General (His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne) on his trip along the Manitoba and North-Western Railway. That invitation I accepted with much pleasure, and early the next morning we left Winnipeg in a special train. For a distance of nearly 60 miles we really retraced the course I had travelled the preceding day, and I again passed through those broad plains of rich pasture lands which extend along the side of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but we left this line of railway at Portage la Prairie. At this point His Excellency received an address from the residents of the surrounding district, and there an extensive collection of agricultural produce—chiefly cereals and roots—had been made, which for quality could rarely be equalled. There was also a brilliant display of flowers in high

perfection. After the address had been received, and replied to, carriages were brought up, and a visit was paid to the farm of Mr. E. Snider, where they were threshing oats. They had on the previous day finished threshing rather over 2,800 bushels of excellent quality, the produce of 35 acres of land—a crop of 80 bushels per acre. The land on this side of Portage la Prairie was for a time passed over by settlers, being considered rather too light, but it is now highly esteemed for its productive character. On leaving Portage la Prairie we soon lose the prairie proper and enter

#### THE PARK-LANDS OF THE FERTILE BELT.

It is a matter of some interest to note that the original route for the Canadian Pacific Railway was located along this track, but for various reasons, which need not be detailed, the line was deviated into a direction almost due west from Portage la Prairie. It may be well also to explain, that as soon as the original route had been officially sanctioned, there was a very strong rush of settlers from Ontario and other parts. These persons, acting upon the information contained in the official records, followed on through the well-known Fertile Belt, and they had no difficulty whatever in taking up land of surprising fertility. Their friends hearing of their success followed with very little delay, but after a time, when much of the land had thus been occupied, they were terribly disappointed to find that it was decided for the railway to take another course. Naturally enough they had to consider whether they would leave their farms, and take up other lands nearer to the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Generally speaking, they appear to have been so far successful on their lands, that few, if any, cared to give them up, even for the sake of better railway accommodation. Ultimately, however, another Company decided to make the railway they needed, and this line—the Manitoba and North-West Railway—is being constructed at the present time.

In going through Westbourne County we pass a large extent of splendid land, which during this great inflow of immigrants was too wet for occupation, and the rush passed on. Since that time much of the land has been sold for assisting the construction of the greatly-desired railway, and the land has been much improved by drainage. In fact, from Westbourne Station, and onwards through Woodside to Gladstone, there are most extensive tracts of land of great fertility, which will some day make their reputation known beyond the boundaries of Manitoba. The train, however, is slackening her speed as we approach Gladstone, the town and people of the

neighbourhood await the approach of the Governor-General, and a thoroughly loyal reception they render. There had been a great change in the appearance of the country since we left Portage la Prairie, for we soon entered a richly wooded district, having intervals of land abundantly sufficient for tillage and grazing purposes. Soon after leaving Gladstone we enter into the County of Beautiful Plains, and certainly the railway route is sufficiently charming to justify such a pretty name. These plains, however, are not so much remarkable for their extent, as for the fact that they are rendered beautiful by the surrounding woodlands, which are often very fine, and charmingly pretty. Again the train stops at another station, and His Excellency's progress is marked by another demonstration even more pronounced than before. Here, amidst their gay decorations, some splendid samples of wheat were shown which would have created unbounded surprise even in Mark Lane. I make this statement with the greater confidence, as I brought back with me one of these samples, which had been grown by Mr. P. J. Stewart, and I know the feeling of Mark Lane upon it. The comments I have already made upon Manitoba Wheat were practically repeated. The importance of this agricultural display—simple as it appeared to be to some—is beyond description, for an ability in any district to produce such wheat at a small cost, is a silent but powerful testimony to its great agricultural capabilities. The name of the neighbourhood (Nepawa) is peculiar, but being the Indian name it has long held, it is singularly appropriate, for it means "Plenty." The signal to leave was not long delayed, and onwards we travelled through a fine country with a good proportion of woodland, and with a soil still keeping up its high character. It was stated that some persons deny the accuracy of the term "The Fertile Belt," which has been given to those lands which extend onwards for very many miles, in fact right up to Prince Albert. Farmers who live upon these soils hold very strong opinions about their high fertility, and refuse to give up the honour which has been accorded to these lands. So far as they have come under my observation, I am bound to say the title is well deserved. At Minnedosa we have a youthful but a very important centre—in fact, very little of the town was in existence three years since—and right well did they welcome the Governor-General, giving abundant evidence of agricultural and commercial prosperity. Here we reached the extreme limit to which the railway was at that time open for public traffic, but as the line was rapidly approaching completion for another 50 miles in advance, special arrangements



MINNEDOSA - MANITOBA.

were made for running out about 10 miles to the end of the track, to inspect their admirable system for laying the rails rapidly and economically. Interested as all were in this work, few will forget the beauty of the scene, as—on our return—we ran down the gentle incline overlooking the fertile valley in which Minnedosa and Odanah are situated. On reaching Minnedosa I took farewell of His Excellency and party, for I had arranged to penetrate more deeply into the country, to visit many of the settlers who were living to the north and west of the railway.

The first of these visits was paid to the new Hungarian settlement. Leaving Minnedosa early in the day, we drove for a distance of 20 miles, through a finely wooded district, quite park-like in its appearance, passing some exceedingly nice properties, which in too many cases were waiting for capital and labour to bring them into successful cultivation. We reached the Hun Valley just when the Hungarian women were preparing the mid-day meal. The Count de Dory gave a kindly welcome, and our horses were soon released, to feed upon the wild peas and vetches which the pastureage so abundantly carried. It was a very pretty sight, for in this rich valley, some of the Hungarians were busily preparing their winter quarters, whilst others had to take part in the tillage of the land. Their future prosperity is assured, for they are an industrious people, they have some capital of their own, and they are no strangers to farm work. Further than this they have their wives and children with them, and a truly bright and merry group they were. The weather was gloriously fine, the air was exhilarating, and the conditions of life were bright and cheerful. In such a scene there was nothing to detract from full and complete happiness. After partaking of some luncheon, an inspection was made of the Stony Creek Valley, which contains much good tillage and grazing land, very nicely sheltered by timber. The foliage was bright in its gay autumnal colours, and this was rendered the more pleasing to the eye by the contrast given by the deep shades of the spruce firs. This colony I was informed had been settled there under the guidance of the Manitoba and North-West Railway Company, on whose lands they are chiefly located. We varied our homeward course to call upon some settlers, and the day was rapidly closing when we reached the Brunswick Hotel in Minnedosa.

Our first stage on the following morning was a twenty mile run to New Dale. We passed through a fine district on which much good land remained open for settlement. The prairie trail we followed ran through a series of basin-shaped districts, and here

again it was observable—as in Southern Manitoba—that the houses were not built in sheltered spots, but were generally dotted around the higher lands. Although much of this land has been taken up by prosperous farmers, much remained for helping others to similar conditions of comfort. After stopping for rest and refreshment at New Dale we started for our next stage of twenty miles. During very much of this drive there were singularly few houses, pretty lakes which dotted the prairie seemed to monopolise all the active life of the district, for on these lakes a very large number of ducks, in great variety, were luxuriating in the midst of a most tranquil scene, broken occasionally by the prairie fowl we disturbed as we drove along our trail. It was almost impossible to repress the feelings, which under such circumstances arise on the mind, of the happiness and prosperity which are here offered to the unemployed of Great Britain who are ready to work for their families. Surely the bridge will be provided without much more delay, and these vast solitudes resound with a happy and prosperous people. The same general character of fertile land extended right on to the south end of Shoal Lake, from which we afterwards drove another ten miles towards the north end of the lake, and here we were most hospitably entertained by Mr. Robert Findley, one of the early settlers in the district. I greatly enjoyed the sound experience he and his two brothers brought to bear upon the various subjects which were discussed that evening, and especially upon the decreasing activity of growth observable in some of the seed wheat. They report that sheep do very well around that part. The dry cold of winter favours a finer and closer staple in the fleece, and the spear grass is here easily held under control. These men—and I must add, their wives—were evidently proud of their neighbourhood, and well satisfied with their success. They were all agreed that the winter in Shoal Lake County is much less severe than in Ontario; adding, “we were bred and reared in that province, and we can judge.” Reference has already been made to Mr. James Findley’s successful adoption of thicker seeding for wheat, and of the splendid crop of fully 45 bushels per acre I saw on his land. With many wishes for their continued health and prosperity, we left them early on the following morning. In driving along the north shore of Shoal Lake we came upon the railway engineers, who courteously explained the improvements which were contemplated for making Shoal Lake a place of summer resort now that the railway will be passing it before winter. After this we took a long drive of about 26 miles through an exceedingly fertile district, and descended by the side of the Bird Tail Creek, to the prettily situated town of Birtle.

Here we were about 20 miles east of the boundary line dividing Manitoba from the North-West Territories. At the Land Office in Birtle some of the largest land sales in the province have been made, and probably the largest number of entries for homesteads have also been registered. Space does not permit me to detail my return drive from Birtle to Minnedosa, for we passed through a similar country to that already described, but we averaged—as also in Southern Manitoba—rather more than 50 miles daily with the same pair of horses, from the start to the finish, and they were none the worse for it, the bright fresh air being so greatly in their favour. Once on the line of railway—the journey to Winnipeg was speedily accomplished. Next to the very general fertility of the land, nothing was more impressive on my mind, than the general prosperity of the people, and their earnest desire to welcome new neighbours, and to render to them friendly help. The Manitoba and North-West Railway is steadily penetrating this vast country, and will greatly facilitate settlement. If I may venture to look forward into the future of these lands of the Fertile Belt, I think we may fairly anticipate that the rearing of stock, and the production of meat, wool, and dairy produce, will more than equal in value the excellent wheat and oats which will be produced there. Our hasty trip through the grand Province of Manitoba has now concluded, but with all its vast resources there is still a need which demands a supply. If even in the original Paradise, Adam did not find his happiness complete so long as he was alone, is it any wonder that here also, in this Paradise of modern times, we should find many a prosperous bachelor ready to join in that sweet song by Samuel Lover :—

Oh come to the West love, Oh! come there with me,  
 'Tis a sweet land of verdure that springs from the sea.  
 Where fair Plenty smiles from her emerald throne,  
 Oh! come to the West, and I'll make thee my own.  
 I'll guard thee, I'll tend thee, I'll love thee the best,  
 And you'll say there's no land, like "The Land of the West."

#### THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Thus far I have restricted myself to the prosperous conditions existing in Manitoba. These are not only due to the natural fertility of the soil, under a climate unsurpassed for its perfect influences upon vegetable and animal life, but also to the thoroughly efficient local administration which that province possesses. Much which I have said in commendation of Manitoba, applies with equal force to the less closely occupied lands outside its boundaries in the North-West Territories. After all we must remember that

there is no natural boundary separating districts which do not differ in their agricultural capabilities. The cake is very large, but it is equally good, with this difference perhaps, that on one side more people are attacking it, and these are becoming more and more satisfied, whilst on other portions there is more feeding space open. I hope, however, that nothing I have said will be taken as suggesting that Manitoba has any monopoly of the favourable conditions subsisting in the Canadian North-West, for this would be quite inconsistent with the facts already given in my previous report—"Successful Emigration"—in which I noticed the North-West Territories somewhat fully in detail. Manitoba is beyond question a great and glorious province, but there are natural conditions existing in other parts of the Canadian North-West which are in every way equal. It would, however, be idle to deny that Manitoba possesses a decided advantage, and one which is of direct money value, in her excellent administration, and that outside the boundary of that province we have a less perfectly developed country, as well as a less perfect system of administration. These are conditions which are usual in all young provinces, but improvements will be made without loss of time. The anxious consideration which the Dominion Government is giving to these Territories will doubtless lead to two of the provinces—Assiniboia and Alberta—soon having extended powers for local administration. It is not too much to hope that when such powers are granted, it may be found practicable to secure most of the advantages which Manitoba possesses, without throwing upon the people such heavy costs as would arise, if the new administrations were simply duplicates of that now existing in Manitoba, which by their expenses would neutralize the advantages conferred on these youthful provinces. An intermediate course will no doubt be sanctioned, combining the maximum of advantages at the least possible cost. But whenever the Dominion Government sanctions a higher position being granted to the Provinces of Alberta and Assiniboia, and subsequently recognises them only by their respective titles, it is to be hoped that one of these names will be reconsidered. The name Alberta (so called after H.R.H. the Princess Louise Alberta) is one which is a great favourite, and it is fully appreciated, but the name Assiniboia, has already received so many ridiculous associations, that it contrasts most unfavourably with Alberta. An opportunity here offers for correcting a defect, and it will at the same time enable Canada to offer to our Most Gracious Sovereign a token of profound respect, by making that great and lovely province a glorious memorial to one whom Canada loves, and

thinks upon with admiration, for that noble devotion to duty which will long be associated with the name of ALBANY. The grouping of the two names Alberta and Albany, as distinguishing two adjoining provinces in the Canadian North-West will afford a thrill of satisfaction to every Canadian heart, and no time could be more fitting for such a change of name than when that province first enters upon official life.

MR. RANKIN'S COLONISATION SYSTEM.

The system which has been carried out upon these lands reflects the greatest credit upon those who have introduced the plan of procedure, and upon those who have brought it to a successful issue. The Assiniboia estate, which is situated about 12 miles to the north of Elkhorn, was purchased for this purpose by Mr. James Rankin, M.P., of Bryngwyn, Herefordshire, and he has been very ably supported in its administration by Mr. Herbert Power. The principle upon which this colonisation work has been carried out, represents the happiest blending of capital with labour, which it has been my good fortune to meet with. The arrangement is very simple and definite, for the capital is provided by Mr. Rankin, and the labour is found by selected workmen, and the produce is equally divided. It is all important that the labourer who is to be aided in this manner should be a thoroughly good workman, experienced in the various operations of the farm, and a trustworthy fellow. For such a man Mr. Rankin builds a good house of six or eight rooms, a stable, granary, and implement shed. He provides him with a team of horses, plough, harrows, seeder, &c., representing an average expenditure of about £400. With these appliances the workman can manage to cultivate from 50 to 60 acres of wheat each year. The crops are stacked in the field, and when the wheat is threshed, the sacks as they leave the threshing machine are placed alternately upon the workman's waggon, and then on the waggon of the capitalist. Each sells his share of the wheat crop as, and when he thinks best, but generally speaking the wheat is again mixed by the same buyer purchasing both lots on the best current prices. With the natural variations in the seasons the returns will differ, but the sale of wheat will generally yield to the workman about £100 for his labour, and a like sum comes to the capitalist for interest, seed and depreciation of stock. Quite independently of this source of income the workman has a large garden, a cow, pigs, and poultry of his own, the produce of which is entirely at his own disposal. In fact he can under this arrangement not only provide food for himself and his family in perfect comfort, but

he can place in the Bank the money coming from his wheat; so that in a few years he is quite able to take land of his own, and purchase his own farm stock. If we examine the position of the capitalist we find it satisfactory, for allowing for the depreciation on the outlay and for the costs of the seed wheat, there would still remain about £50 for costs of oversight and for interest, which give a gross return of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the outlay, from which about five per cent. must be deducted for local charges, leaving about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the interest upon the capital. Such a system, therefore, whilst it is most beneficial and advantageous for the experienced farm-labourer, secures to the capitalist a moderate, but still a safe return upon his investment. The workman is the one, who under such a system obtains the great advantage, for whilst he is secured in the comforts of a thoroughly good home, and can command all the requirements of life for himself, and his family, he has a certain annual surplus coming to him, whereby he soon becomes possessed of sufficient capital to enable him to commence farming on his own account. Mr. Rankin's system is one, which I fear will only be taken up by men with large-hearted sympathies, but for such persons it has much to commend it, as a plan for helping good workmen into conditions of permanent prosperity. Those who are now being aided by this system upon the Assiniboina Estate are the happiest and most prosperous group of working men in the Canadian North-West—men who are rapidly progressing from the position of the labourer to that of the land-owner. After inspecting their lands I visited their houses, and here I found the females of the several families actively engaged in their domestic duties, and their homes were looking as bright and cheerful as could possibly be desired. The well-being and prosperity of these people compel me to commend this system as an admirable example of the advantages arising from a happy combination of capital on the one hand and of skilful industry on the other, under a very judicious administration. It is undoubtedly a good system, and it is commercially safe, but still it needs warm-hearted, generous dispositions to advance so much capital for each family.

#### THE BELL FARM COLONISATION SYSTEM.

The Bell Farm, which is situated in the Qu'appelle district, has attracted much attention by reason of the large extent of land which it contains—about 64,000 acres. It has also received much consideration because of the magnitude and excellence of its tillage operations. It is, however, desirable to state that these points of



PLoughing the prairie on the Bell farm.

detail are simply incidental to the carrying out of a definite colonisation scheme. In my Report issued in 1883 this system was explained somewhat in detail, and I quote from it the following remarks—"I have now to report upon a colonisation scheme in which the work is being carried out by a company having the command of a large capital. The general scheme is to bring the land into cultivation, dividing it into 300 farms, each having a comfortable residence, with stabling and shedding enough for its stock. When this has been accomplished, these farms, with the stock and implements upon each, will be fairly valued, and the men who helped to carry out the improvements will each have the offer of his own farm at a valuation price, he paying for the same by a series of annual instalments. In the meantime each man receives wages, and he has his house and one acre of garden ground rent free." This colonisation scheme has much to commend it to our consideration, but modifications might be very advantageously introduced whereby gentlemen having some little capital to invest, may also be comfortably settled upon small farms. They might thus establish an agreeable association with other families near, of similar type and character, whilst the produce from their lands—aided by the game and fish of the district around—would practically maintain their households in comfort.

The discussions which have arisen as regards the relative advantages of large and small farms are somewhat beside the mark, except so far as they render the preparation of the land for colonisation purposes more or less economical. Major Bell is steadily advancing the arrangement for the development of the colonisation scheme, and the systematic operations upon the cultivated portions will greatly favour its success. The rate of wages has again fallen this last season, not only upon this farm, but generally throughout Canada, and its important influence upon the introduction of capital, can only be beneficial. If a capitalist has to pay an unreasonable rate of wages, it naturally checks his success in business. For a time very high wages were paid, and often for an inferior class of workmen, but happily this is now altered. Liberal wages can still be secured by men who are capable of doing good work. Their prosperity in life is far more satisfactorily advanced by moderate wages, with some land of their own on which a cow, pigs, and poultry can be kept, rather than by excessive wages, which check the outlay of capital. The employment of Indians in the harvesting of corn is a new and important feature on this farm. A considerable number were so employed this last harvest, and these came under the special guidance of Mr. Adiel W. Sherwood, whom they styled,



CUTTING WHEAT ON THE BELL FARM.

their "Little Chief." The squaws proved themselves to be quite equal to newly-arrived emigrant workmen of the full average type—they were better than many of them—and they were glad to get two shillings a day with food.

#### SCOTCH COLONISTS.

It is however, a proud satisfaction to see some of our British colonists holding the most distinguished positions of success, and I heartily wish that all parts of Great Britain yielded settlers as bold, as persevering, and as adaptable to the habits of colonial life. This is no new point of character for Scotchmen, for it is a world-wide reputation they enjoy. The author of "Greater Britain" writing upon this point thirteen years since, describes the position of the Scotch in Australia, in words which most accurately describe their present position in Canada. He says:—"Whether it be that the Scotch emigrants are for the most part men of better education than those of other nations, or whether the Scotchman owes his success in every climate to his perseverance, or his shrewdness, the fact remains that wherever you come across a Scotchman you invariably find him prosperous, and respected. The Scotch emigrant is a man who leaves Scotland because he wishes to rise higher than he can at home, \* \* \* he crosses the sea in calculating contentment." The model is good, and it would be well if our English emigrants would more generally learn the lesson which such success teaches.

#### GERMAN AND ROUMANIAN COLONISTS.

The space at my command compels me to limit my remarks upon the New Alsace Colony on the West of Long Lake, and upon the New Toulcha colony on the north of Balgonie. The success of these settlers—and in point of fact of all the German immigrants—is great, for they are most industrious, they readily adapt themselves to colonial practices, and they select good land. That they are very successful, is also shown by the fact, that the Germans in the Canadian North-West have sent home over £100,000 to aid some more of their relatives to join them. What stronger testimony than this could be given as to the capabilities of the country. Here we have men who had to contend with the disadvantages arising from having no knowledge of the language of the country, not only supporting themselves in comfort; but giving the strongest possible evidence of their own success, and of their confidence in the district. The fact is—and it cannot be rendered too prominent—these people bring strong common sense to bear upon the conduct of their work, and this is just as necessary in the Canadian North-West, as it is in other parts of the world.

## DR. MEYER'S COLONISATION SYSTEM.

This is being carried out in a Swiss settlement which has been commenced near Whitewood on the Canadian Pacific Railway. The speciality of the system is the settlement of some Swiss emigrants who are experts in dairy practice, and well-known as an industrious and trustworthy people. The conditions which are desirable, if not really necessary for its success are:—

Settlement as village communities.

A Creamery at some central point.

Tillage operations to be near their houses.

The more distant pasturage to be grazed in common.

They are prepared to comply fully with the requirements of the Dominion Lands Act, but hope to be allowed to do the required work on that portion of the village lands which is nearest their houses, and therefore most convenient. The success of this work will be watched with the deepest interest.

## SUCCESSFUL COLONISTS.

It happened that in the autumn of 1884 I suggested to the then Minister of the Interior (Sir D. Macpherson) that it would give very valuable information, if some of the Government Agents in the Canadian North-West were requested to visit the settlers in their respective agencies, and learn from them individually the results of their work, making official reports of the same. During my visit to Canada in the early summer of 1885 I received these returns, and I have examined them with care. The returns from the Government Agent at Moosomin—which are singularly complete—may be advantageously taken as fairly illustrating the condition of settlers in the North-West, more especially as grain-growing and mixed farming are about equally practised in that district. These returns from the Moosomin agency deal with 244 settlers, and from each of these there is a personal and individual record. I find that of this group 118 settlers restricted themselves to the growth of grain, and 126 devoted themselves to mixed husbandry—under which system the production of wheat, barley, oats, &c., is balanced off by the rearing and feeding of stock. The capital which was invested by those carrying out the growth of grain amounted to £15,137, whilst those who went in for mixed husbandry expended £28,184. These amounts show an average capital of £128 amongst the grain-growers, and £223 for each of those engaged in mixed husbandry. In addition to the maintenance of themselves and their families, the returns given by the settlers show that within from 2 to 3 years the grain-growers

had added £36,296 to their capital, and that £53,561 had been similarly gained by the mixed husbandry men. If we reduce these figures so as to show how much each individual settler had added to his capital, it amounts to £307 for each grain-grower, and £425 for each of those following mixed husbandry.

But it does not come within the power of every one to command success, and amongst this very general prosperity I find some who made partial failures in these their early experiences of emigrant life. Of the 118 who went in for grain-growing, there were two who were just able to support their families without decreasing their capital, and nine others made a partial loss of capital; but 107 out of 118 made satisfactory profits. If we turn to the 126 engaged in mixed husbandry, we find one settler securing maintenance without a decrease of his capital, whilst four decreased their capital. These 121 successes out of a group of 126 are therefore most satisfactory. In all these cases of partial failure I find that the settlers had a larger average capital than those who secured a success, and it is more than probable, either that the pleasures of sport received an undue share of their attention, or that they were not fully prepared for the duties they had undertaken. Men who are here successfully engaged in work are in the proportion of 288 contents, as against the sixteen partial failures or non-contents. The latter group lose much time in proclaiming their losses, which time could be far better employed in struggling to secure as great success as their neighbours; whilst those who are successful proceed quietly in the path of duty, with feelings of satisfaction and contentment. If we separate from the entire group the losses made by these sixteen partial failures, and allow the successful 228 to give their results, without deducting those losses from their returns, we have more satisfactory results than any which have yet been named.

I have on previous occasions made particular reference to that capital which is represented by an ability to do farm work. In the returns before me I have some remarkable instances of the success which is within its command. Amongst the 118 corn-growers there were sixteen who began without any cash capital, but their profits were fully equal to the average, even of those who had £107 capital to help them at the commencement. I have no doubt that in each and all of these cases the men without capital engaged themselves to work with some of the farmers near them, and then took part payment of their wages in the form of tillages done on their own lands. For illustration sake we may assume that one of these men has agreed to work at four shillings a day, hence for

ten days' work he would be entitled to £2, but, if, instead of taking cash, he could get his employer to plough and sow one acre of the workman's own land, the crop would be worth at least £4. The workman thereby doubles his income by the aid of his land, and the employer also gains by the form in which he pays for the man's services. There are, therefore, many advantages resulting from the close association of persons who require workmen, with those who desire employment; and this should be in every way encouraged, for the advantages are mutual. It is very satisfactory, however, to know that although now and again we have a discordant outcry—arising sometimes from persons who are not succeeding as well as their neighbours, and at other times from persons whose interest it is to draw emigrants away from Canada—that there is a strong and steady current of prosperity which is being quietly utilised for the advancement of many an industrious emigrant.

#### RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION.

There is a very close connection between railway accommodation and successful settlement, to which, indeed, recent events have drawn much attention, for it is not too much to say that a new era is opening in the history of the Canadian North-West. It is pleasing to remark that on November 7th, 1885, the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway received the following telegram from Lord Melgund:—"I am desired by his Excellency the Governor-General to acquaint you that he has received Her Majesty's commands to convey to the people of Canada her congratulations on the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Her Majesty has watched its progress with much interest, and hopes for the future success of a work of such value and importance to the empire." It has been well said that:—"During the present reign, extending over nearly half a century, no more significant message has been sent in the name of the occupant of the Throne than that so recently despatched to Lord Lansdowne. It is impossible for the most farsighted minds to presage the results which may flow from the opening of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is the longest system of railway that can be found within the mighty Empire over which Her Majesty bears sway, running as it does over a distance of over 3,053 miles. It has been completed with astonishing rapidity, seeing that the charter granted to the company formed for its construction bears the date of February 16th, 1881. It runs through one of the richest and most diversified territories in the world, and will open

communication between the British Isles and the Continent of Asia, through a district of country every foot of which owes allegiance to the Sovereign now seated on the Throne of Great Britain, who is also Empress of India. It is natural at this moment of well earned triumph, the Canadian Government should revert with pride to the circumstances under which British Columbia was invited to unite herself with the Dominion of Canada. On the 10th of May, 1879, Sir Charles Tupper, Minister of Public Works, announced in the Canadian House of Commons at Ottawa the policy of the Government with which he was connected, and submitted a series of resolutions for the consideration of that branch of the Legislature, for the purpose of constructing this line of railway with all possible speed. We trust that this splendid highway, extending from Quebec, the most interesting old city upon the North American continent, to Vancouver, which overlooks the blue waters of the Pacific, may be of some avail in teaching Englishmen what a noble possession they own in the Dominion of Canada. Over this enormous surface a population of about 5,000,000 souls is scattered, and little wonder can be felt at the announcement of the Canadian Prime Minister, that between the western end of Lake Superior and the Pacific there are farms enough to find employment, and to yield support to all the adult agriculturists in the world." The last spike of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway was driven by the Hon. Donald A. Smith, on Saturday, November 7th, 1885. Great as is the work which has thus far been accomplished, over 2,000 miles of branch railways have already been sanctioned by the Dominion Parliament, for construction by various companies in the Canadian North-West, and these lines are being rapidly proceeded with. Two very important results will arise from this supplemental railway work. In the first place the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway will receive greatly increased supplies of produce by means of these branches, for each and all will act as feeders. In the second place an enormous extent of new country will be opened up for profitable settlement, which will in its turn still further increase the traffic.

#### GOVERNMENT AID TO EMIGRATION.

The Free Gift of 160 acres of very good land—known as the Homestead Grant—is one means whereby emigration is aided by the Dominion Government. There is an office fee of about £2 to be paid for the costs of survey and registration, but in other respects it is a Free Gift, guarded only by conditions for its proper use and cultivation. Every settler has the further right to secure

another grant of land of the same extent, for which he has also to pay survey and registration fees, amounting to about £2, and thus he secures the right to purchase the second lot of 160 acres on payment of about £80 at the expiration of three years—this is distinguished as Pre-emption land. These privileges are granted to genuine settlers upon the land, and the conditions for residence and cultivation are extremely moderate. Every man of business will know that capital should be at command for dealing with 160 acres of land successfully, and more especially is it requisite if a man takes up 320 acres. I have met with many cases of good agricultural labourers taking their 160 acres each of Homestead land, without any more cash than was enough to pay the fees, and where these men have possessed industrious habits and good common sense, they have done their duty to the land, and they have also made important progress towards wealth. They have almost always adopted this course—they have gone out to work for some farmer near, and they have taken up a large share of their wages in tillages done upon their lands. The employers are very generally willing to do such work instead of paying money, and the consequence is that ploughing, sowing, and harvesting of the crops pay the workmen two or three times as much as the original value of their wages. When, however, a farmer with some capital at his command—it may not be much—takes up land, he should secure a Pre-emption as well as his Homestead, because his profits from the tillage of the land, even if he has only one yoke of oxen, easily enable him to provide the necessary purchase money (£80) by the end of the third year. He then becomes possessed of a valuable farm of 320 acres, which will be very remunerative to him, and there he may make a happy and comfortable home for himself and his family. If, however, he gets a group of friends to go with him, and they all settle down near each other, he does a wise and prudent act, for mutual help and neighbourly association is worth much. It is impossible, however, for me to give any complete explanations of the land regulations—they can be obtained free from any of the Canadian Government offices—still these hints may give some useful guidance.

But Government aid to Emigration must go far beyond these lines, if effective help is to be given to the many thousands of families who would be benefited by emigration. In fact the necessity for such aid increases day by day, and it is greatly to be desired that it may shortly be accomplished by concerted arrangements between the Imperial and Colonial Governments. Private benevolence has done much to prepare the way for such aid being

rendered with perfect safety, and the experience which has been gained indicates with clearness the conditions which will command success. There are, however, certain regulations which the experience of the past leads me to regard as essentially necessary for commanding a successful issue.

A careful selection of suitable emigrants.

Payment of all expenses to the colony.

House and food awaiting their arrival.

Placing workmen near employers.

Giving each workman sufficient land for his support.

Making provision for guiding emigrants into success.

Securing the repayment of Loans and Expenses.

No charge to fall upon the British Taxpayer.

A suitable organisation to direct details.

So far as the Canadian North-West is concerned she is quite prepared to give a very hearty welcome, and upon her boundless plains of fertile soil—ready to burst into productive growth—thousands upon thousands of families can be received, who may at once become happy and prosperous colonists. Most earnestly do I hope that a thoroughly deserving class of British subjects may arouse themselves to secure the advantages which even now are offered to men of capital, and to those who seek employment under them, for I know full well that they will find that in Canada they can live in happiness and prosperity under the good old flag, and still remain faithful subjects of the British Empire.

"Cheer, boys, cheer, the steady breeze is blowing,

To float us freely o'er the ocean's breast,

The world shall follow in the track we're going,

The star of the Empire glitters in the West.

Here we had toil, ~~and~~ little to reward it,

But there shall plenty smile upon our pain,

And our's shall be the prairie and the forest,

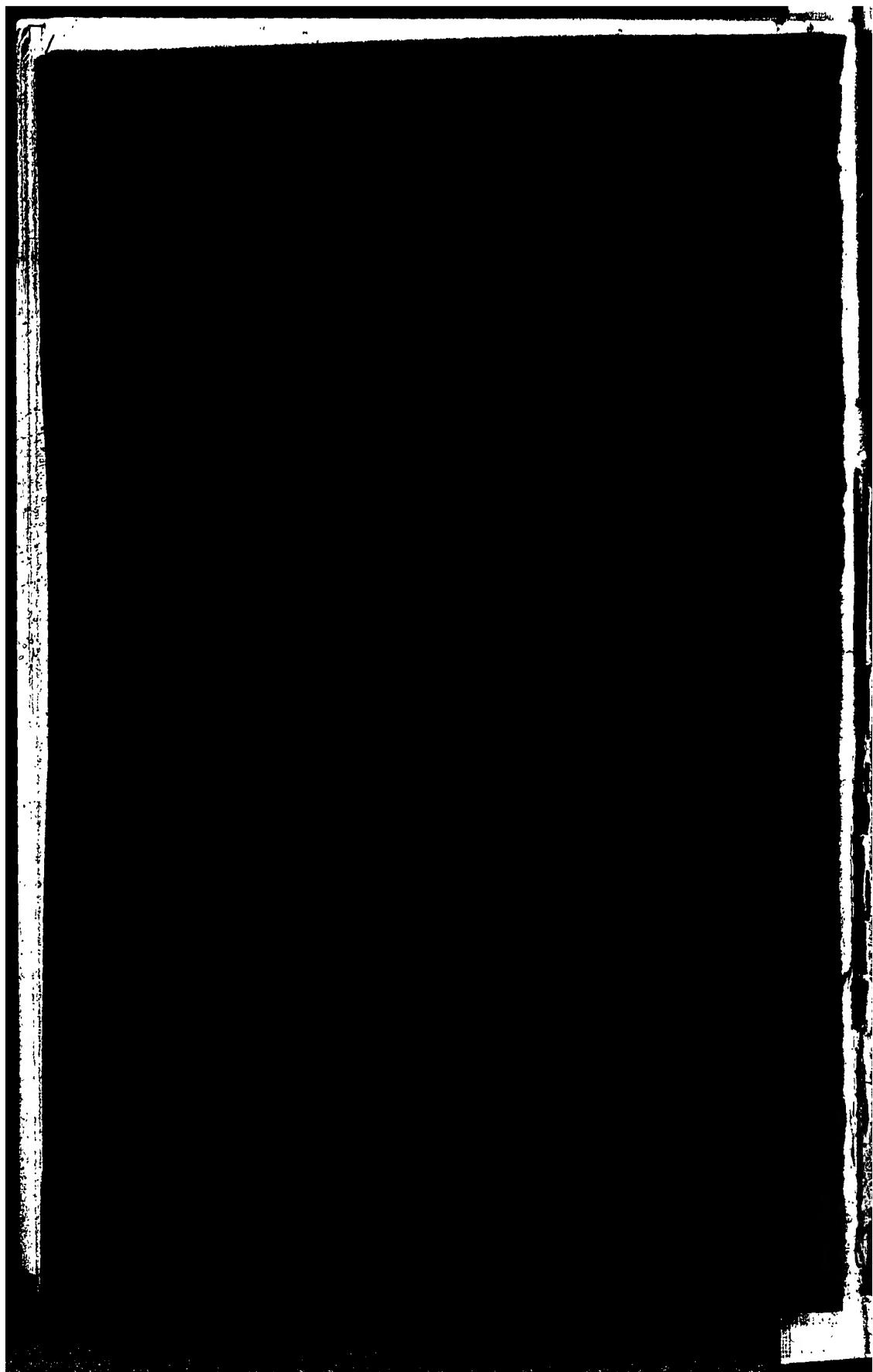
And boundless meadows ripe with golden grain.

Cheer, boys, cheer, for Country, Mother Country,

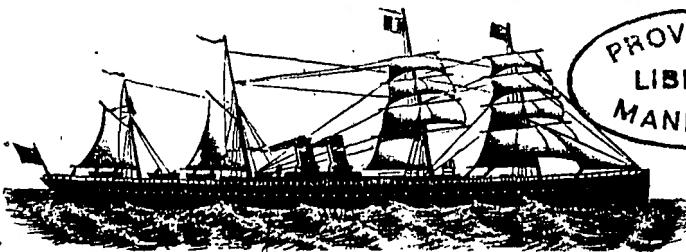
Cheer, boys, cheer, united heart and hand,

Cheer, boys, cheer, there's wealth for honest labour,

Cheer, boys, cheer, for the new and happy land."



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MR. C. CAMPBELL CHIPMAN, Assistant Secretary and Accountant (address as above).

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